

Inspection report for children's home

Unique reference number	SC063318
Inspection date	03/02/2012
Inspector	Chris Scully
Type of inspection	Interim
Provision subtype	Children's home

Date of last inspection	05/07/2011
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About this inspection

The purpose of this inspection is to assure children and young people, parents, the public, local authorities and government of the quality and standard of the service provided. The inspection was carried out under the Care Standards Act 2000 to assess the effectiveness of the service and to consider how well it complies with the relevant regulations and meets the national minimum standards.

The report details the progress made by the provider since the last full inspection, identifies any further strengths, any areas for improvement and makes judgements as outlined in the *Inspection of children's homes – framework for inspection (March 2011)*.

The inspection judgements and what they mean

Good progress	The children's home has demonstrated continued improvement in quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and where appropriate has addressed all requirements and the large majority of recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection.
Satisfactory progress	The children's home has maintained quality of care and outcomes for children and young people and where appropriate has addressed all requirements and the majority of recommendations that were raised at the previous inspection.
Inadequate progress	The children's home has failed to address one or more requirements and/or has not met the majority of recommendations and/or the quality of care and outcomes for children and young people have declined since the last full inspection.

Service information

Brief description of the service

This is a children's home for up to three young people aged 10 to 17 years with emotional or behavioural difficulties or learning disabilities. The home is able to provide short and long term placements to young people and is managed by a private company.

Progress

Since their previous inspection the service is judged to be making **good** progress.

The home was last inspected on 5 July 2011. This is a good home with many outstanding features. Following the inspection one statutory requirement relation to notifications to Ofsted was raised. Young people's safety and well being is enhanced as the home ensures all appropriate persons, including Ofsted are informed of any significant events. This promotes transparency in how the home responds to specific situations. Three recommendations were also raised; relating to medication recording, risk assessments and staff supervision.

The newly appointed Registered Manager has taken appropriate action to address the issues raised. Staff have a good understanding of each young person's needs and their individual roles. This is because they receive regular supervision and opportunities to meet as a team, which enables them to keep up-to-date with young people's needs. This also provides opportunities to discuss training issues. Staff say they receive training on a wide range of topics and feel that they work well together as a team. Staff feel young people benefit from a stable, well informed and trained group of staff. However the Registered Manager is not yet enrolled on a management course at level 5. The home is appropriately monitored by representatives of the organisation and the Registered Manager. This monitoring provides insight into the organisation of the home, although regulation 34 reports have not yet been received by Ofsted. This does not have a direct impact upon the care provided by the home.

The revised systems for recording medication administered to young people have improved. Consequently, medication is administered in line with the pharmacies and doctors guidance. Young people are encouraged to sign the record. Appropriate risk assessments are undertaken to ensure young people are able to self-administer certain medications. This enhances their understanding of their own health care needs and promotes their confidence and self-esteem. Young people's pocket money records are more clearly defined. They show how much money and when this has been given to young people. Young people are actively encouraged to sign all entries, which encourages them to think about budgeting and managing their own finances.

Young people say they no longer feel the need to be missing. They are happy and settled in the home and feel that they can discuss any worries with staff. Staff are aware of the new protocols which are coming into force; this includes when to report young people as missing. Key worker sessions demonstrate how staff help young people to help keep themselves safe. Clear procedures are in place including vulnerability plans which are shared with other professionals in order to help keep young people safe. This action has had a positive impact upon young people and has resulted in a considerable reduction of young people going missing.

Young people say, 'everything is great here' and say they are pleased to be starting a new course at college next week. They speak maturely about their decision to change courses and how they feel this will be more beneficial for them. Other young people continue to do well at school and are discussing future courses for when they leave in the summer. Staff are supportive of young people's career choices and support them in locating information regarding courses that will enable them to achieve their goals. Young people are fully consulted about the running of the home and continue to be pleased with the refurbishment which is now complete. They say they are pleased with the colour schemes for their bedrooms and the opportunity to swap bedrooms.

Areas for improvement

Recommendations

To improve the quality and standards of care further the service should take account of the following recommendation(s):

- ensure the Registered Manager is enrolled on a course to gain a diploma at level 5 in Leadership for Health and Social Care and Children and Young People's Services (NMS 14.3)
- ensure that reports reviewing the quality of care under Regulation 34 are supplied to Ofsted at six monthly intervals within 28 days of completion. (Children Act 1989 Guidance and Regulations Volume 5, statutory guidance, paragraph 3.14)